

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

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P R 140510Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6910

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED DEVELOPMENTS - FEBRUARY 14

SUMMARY. ADDITIONAL RELEASE OF CHURCH COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS DOMINATED FEBRUARY 14 NEWS WITH FOCUS ON KODAMA CONTRACT TO PROMOTE PC3 SALE IN JAPAN. THIS PROMPTED GOJ STATEMENT IT RECONSIDERING ENTIRE ASW PLANE MATTER. THERE IS ONE, AS YET UNCONFIRMED, REPORT THAT JDA VICE MINISTER KUBO HAS RESIGNED. MEDIA ALSO REPORTED THAT PM MIKI FEBRUARY 13 REITERATED THAT GOJ WOULD LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN ITS LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION. MIKI SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED FONMIN MIYAZAWA TO OBTAIN ALL DOCUMENTS FROM US. A REPORT OF A KOCHIAN-FORMER PM TANAKA MEETING PROMPTED RENEWED CALLS FOR HIS DIET APPEARANCE AND A VAGUE COUNTER-THREAT OF REPRISALS. OSANO IS SCHEDULED TO

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APPEAR BEFORE THE LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 16,

BUT PRESS REPORTS THAT KODAMA IS TOO ILL TO DO SO FOLLOWING DAY. END SUMMARY.

1. DOCUMENT RELEASE. CHURCH COMMITTEE RELEASE OF LOCKHEED DOCUMENTS DOMINATES SATURDAY NEWS WITH FOCUS ON LOCKHEED CONTRACT WITH KODAMA SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO PROMOTING SALE OF P-3C TO JAPAN. NHK REPORTED THAT OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD SEIZED ON THIS POINT AS PROOF OF GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT SINCE GOVERNMENT IS THE BUYER AND SINCE LOCKHEED HAD SIGNED THIS CONTRACT WITH KODAMA AT SAME TIME GOVERNMENT HAD ORGANIZED EXPORTS COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER NEW ASW AIRCRAFT. OPPOSITION PARTIES REPORTEDLY INTEND TO CONCENTRATE DIET EFFORTS ON P3C ITEM.

2. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY IDE REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED SATURDAY MORNING THAT GOJ WOULD RECONSIDER ENTIRE MATTER OF ASW SELECTION. NHK NOTED THAT A DECISION ON ASW AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN EXPECTED THIS SUMMER, BUT THAT DELAY NOW INEVITABLE. IT REFERRED TO SPECULATION THAT GOJ MIGHT NOW DECIDE TO BUILD AIRFRAME IN JAPAN AND IMPORT SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONICS WHICH JAPAN COULD NOT PRODUCE. THIS FITS IN WITH EARLIER SPECULATION THAT JAPAN MIGHT TRY TO ADAPT ITS DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED PS SEAPLANE TO BECOME BASIC ASW AIRCRAFT.

3. KUBO RESIGNATION? NIHON KEIZAI REPORTED THAT JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL SAKATA HAD ACCEPTED VICE MINISTER KUBO'S RESIGNATION BECAUSE OF LATTER'S EARLIER STATEMENT LINKING THEN PRIME MINISTER TANAKA AND OTHERS TO A SECRET POLITICAL DECISION TO REVERSE JDA PLAN TO PRODUCE ASW AIRCRAFT DOMESTICALLY. JDA SOURCES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM RESIGNATION REPORT WHICH NOT CARRIED IN OTHER PAPERS. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT RESIGNATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BUT NOT YET ACCEPTED.

4. MIKI STATEMENTS/MEETINGS. PM MIKI TOLD LOWER HOUSE PLENARY FEBRUARY 13 THAT GOJ WOULD LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN PROBING ALLEGED LOCKHEED BRIBERY CASE. HE MET SAME DAY WITH LDP VICE PRESIDENT SHIINA, LOWER HOUSE PRESIDENT MAEO, AND DEPUTY PM FUKUDA, ALL OF WHOM REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THIS POLICY. MIKI ALSO INSTRUCTED FUMIO MIYAZAWA TO PRESS US AUTHORITIES ONCE AGAIN FOR RELEASE OF LOCKHEED DOCUMENTS STILL IN US HANDS. HE ALSO URGED FINMIN OHIRA TO PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CEED WITH TAX INVESTIGATIONS PROMPTLY. MIKI STATEMENT AND OTHER ACTIONS BEING WIDELY INTERPRETED HERE AS GOJ RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S FEBRUARY 12 STATEMENT ABOUT RISKS OF EXPOSING FOREIGN OFFICIALS. IMPRESSION (CONVEYED) INTENDED IS THAT GOJ/LDP HAS NOTHING TO FEAR.

5. POSSIBLE TANAKA INVOLVEMENT. MEDIA FEBRUARY 13 REPORTED KOCHAN STATEMENT HE HAD MET WITH FORMER

PM TANAKA IN 1970 AT TANAKA REQUEST. TANAKA'S SECRETARY COUNTERED BY SAYING MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE IN 1972 AT KO-CHIAN REQUEST TO DISCUSS JOINT US-JAPAN "YX" CIVIL AIRCRAFT PROJECT. THIS EXCHANGE PROMPTED OPPOSITION PARTIES TO INSIST AGAIN THAT TANAKA GIVE DIET TESTIMONY. IN RESPONSE, TANAKA'S SECRETARY SAID THAT, IF OPPOSITION PARTIES PERSISTED, TANAKA WOULD BE FORCED TO CONSIDER COUNTERMEASURES.

6. DIET TESTIMONY. MEDIA REPORTED FEBRUARY 14 THAT TANAKA ASSOCIATE KENJI OSANO, AND "ALL JAPAN" AIRLINES PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT WOULD UNDERGO QUESTIONING IN THE LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 16. ON THE BASIS OF A MEDICAL OPINION OFFERED BY KODAMA'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, IT WAS REPORTED THAT YOSHIO KODAMA WOULD BE UNABLE TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 17 AS SCHEDULED.

7. JAPANESE RETURN HOME. FONMIN DEPUTY MINISTER ARITA AND JSP, DSP AND CGP DIET DELEGATIONS TO THE US HAVE NOW RETURNED TO JAPAN. ARITA TOLD PRESS ON ARRIVAL THAT JAPANESE HAD REQUESTED STATE DEPARTMENT TO RELEASE ALL LOCKHEED DOCUMENTS "THREE OR FOUR TIMES" ALREADY AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. DIET MEMBERS REPORTED IMPRESSION THAT US SIDE HAS NAMES, BUT IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THEY WILL RELEASE THEM. LDP'S BUNSEI SATO AND JCP DELEGATION REMAIN IN US. HODGSON

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